I claim:

1. A soft tissue coagulation device, comprising:

a shaft defining a distal end and including an outer structure formed from material that is relatively high in thermally conductivity and substantially electrically nonconductive;

at least one energy transmission device supported on the outer structure in spaced relation to the distal end of the shaft; and

at least one fluid lumen defined by the outer structure and located such that a portion thereof is aligned with the at least one energy transmission device.

2. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shaft is relatively short.

3. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the shaft is relatively stiff.

4. A device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the shaft includes a malleable mandrel and the outer structure is mounted on the malleable mandrel.

5. A device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the shaft includes a tubular member defining a distal end and the outer structure extends distally from the distal end of the tubular member.

6. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shaft include a proximal portion and a distal portion, the device further comprising:

a steering apparatus that deflects the distal portion relative to the proximal portion.

7. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shaft includes a pre-bent portion.

8. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one fluid lumen comprises an inlet lumen and an outlet lumen.

9. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the inlet lumen and the outlet lumen define respective distal ends, the device further comprising:

a non-conductive tip member defining a lumen that connects the distal ends of the inlet lumen and outlet lumen.

10. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one fluid lumen includes inner and outer lumen surfaces defining a distance therebetween, the outer structure includes a wall defining a wall thickness between the at least one energy transmission device and the at least one fluid lumen, and the distance between the inner and outer lumen surfaces is greater than the wall thickness.

11. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one energy transmission device comprises a plurality of longitudinally spaced energy transmission devices.

12. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one energy transmission device comprises an electrode.

13. A surgical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein outer structure defines a perimeter, the at least one energy transmission device extends around less than the entire perimeter, the at least one fluid lumen comprises inlet and outlet lumens, and the inlet lumen is between a substantial portion of at least one the energy transmission device and the outlet lumen.

14. A surgical probe as claimed in claim 13, wherein the outlet lumen includes thermal insulation.

15. A soft tissue coagulation device, comprising:

a shaft defining a distal end and including an outer structure formed from material that is substantially electrically nonconductive;

at least one energy transmission device supported on the outer structure in spaced relation to the distal end of the shaft; and

at least one fluid lumen defined by the outer structure such that a wall having a wall thickness is between the at least one fluid lumen and the at least one energy transmission device, located such that a portion thereof is aligned with the at least one energy transmission device, and including inner and outer lumen surfaces defining a distance therebetween that is greater than the wall thickness.

16. A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the shaft is relatively short.

17. A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least a portion of the shaft is relatively stiff.

18. A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the shaft includes a malleable mandrel and the outer structure is mounted on the malleable mandrel.

19. A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the shaft includes a tubular member defining a distal end and the outer structure extends distally from the distal end of the tubular member.

20. A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the shaft include a proximal portion and a distal portion, the device further comprising:

a steering apparatus that deflects the distal portion relative to the proximal portion.

21. A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the shaft includes a pre-bent portion.

22. A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the at least one fluid lumen comprises an inlet lumen and an outlet lumen.

23. A device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the inlet lumen and the outlet lumen define respective distal ends, the device further comprising:

a non-conductive tip member defining a lumen that connects the distal ends of the inlet lumen and outlet lumen.

24. A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the at least one energy transmission device comprises a plurality of longitudinally spaced energy transmission devices.

25. A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the at least one energy transmission device comprises an electrode.

26. A surgical probe as claimed in claim 15, wherein outer structure defines a perimeter, the at least one energy transmission device extends around less than the entire perimeter, the at least one fluid lumen comprises inlet and outlet lumens, and the inlet lumen is between a substantial portion of at least one the energy transmission device and the outlet lumen.

27. A surgical probe as claimed in claim 26, wherein the outlet lumen includes thermal insulation.

28. A surgical probe as claimed in claim 15, wherein the distance between the inner and outer lumen surfaces is at least two times greater than the wall thickness.

29. A method of coagulating soft tissue with an apparatus including an elongate energy transmission device and an inner lumen, comprising the steps of:

positioning the elongate energy transmission device in electrical contact with tissue;

transmitting energy to the tissue with the energy transmission device; and

passing fluid through the inner lumen such that heat is transferred from the energy transmission device to the fluid.

30. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the step of positioning the elongate energy transmission device comprises positioning a plurality of spaced electrodes in electrical contact with tissue.

31. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the step of passing fluid through the inner lumen comprises passing fluid through an inlet lumen and an outlet lumen.